

National Congress Bulletin



FEBRUARY 1960 • PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 27, NO. 6

Dear P.T.A. President:

THIS IS NOT the subject I would have chosen for a Founders Day message. It will not be one of inspiration (I hope you will read my message in the February P.T.A. magazine for that), but I believe it will be in the spirit of the Founders of this organization.

♦ You were introduced to the unpleasant subject of pornography in the September 1959 issue of the "National Parent-Teacher," and you became further acquainted with it in the November issue. Authorities in the field have spoken to you about it. Today I write you as a mother, grandmother, and P.T.A. member who by official request has viewed with her own eyes some of the vicious and lascivious visual forms in which the mind of man has portrayed perversion—presumably for money but possibly for the intentional undermining of the spiritual and moral character of our youth.

♦ You read in the January "Bulletin" that Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield has appointed a nine-person committee, of which I am a member. This committee acts in an advisory capacity on certain writings in which there can be reasonable doubt about the author's intentions. I express my hope to you that none of your young people may ever come upon any of the evidence of obvious pornography that



Members of the Postmaster General's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Obscenity Through the Mails meet in Washington, D. C.: From left, seated: Mrs. James C. Parker, Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, Chloe Gifford, and Dr. Shane MacCarthy. From left, standing: Dr. Emanuel Rose (alternate for Dr. Julius Mark), Roscoe Drummond, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, Dr. Erwin D. Canham, and Monsignor Thomas Fitzgerald (alternate for the Most Reverend William E. Cousins). Another member, Douglas M. Black, was absent when this picture was taken.

I have seen. However, this is not an impossible eventuality, as the informed writers in the P.T.A. magazine have warned you. I can only assure you that the Postmaster General is exerting earnest efforts to prevent it.

» But this is not all the story. How do we safeguard immature minds from exposure to obscene publications that are readily accessible at public newsstands and other distributing outlets—magazines and books that leave no doubt of their design, to arouse lustful and perverted desires? This problem is, of course, one that each community should face. For each community is obligated to work out measures that will be effective, yet not infringe upon the freedom to read.

» The first thing, it seems to me, is to find out what your problem is and how big it is. Then I suggest that P.T.A.'s set up committees to study the problem of pornography and ways of wiping it out. Obviously the more truly such a committee represents the whole community, the surer you can be that it will succeed. A number of P.T.A.'s have already taken the initiative in developing community groups to get rid of publications that appeal to "prurient interest"—that are, in other words, clearly obscene in intent.

» I would suggest further that such P.T.A. committees invite into their sessions newsstand distributors and merchants whose stores have book or magazine stalls. Get their opinions about the publications they are distributing. Ask them about the problems involved in selecting only the better publications (for instance, the "tie-in sales" that may force them to stock salacious publications). Remember, many distributors may be just as concerned about pornography as we are.

» Court or police department personnel should also be asked to come to a meeting and explain the local statutes or ordinances on the possession and distribution of obscene material. They can help you determine whether local laws need to be strengthened or simply to be better enforced.

» Another good idea might be to prepare a packet of questionable publications that could be sent to various organizations in the community in order to get their reactions to the materials. Preparing such a packet will not only give you a better understanding of the degrees of pornographic publications but better enable you to decide on what kinds are intolerable.

» If a local association or a group of associations decide to make this a project, care must be exerted in choosing the personnel of the committee. Fanaticism may do more harm

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than good. It takes people with sensitivity combined with saneness, discretion combined with courage, to make wise plans and thoughtful decisions. And we have members who can judiciously, carefully, and persistently follow a steady course until we need no longer be concerned every time our youngsters stop in a store for a soda or a candy bar or a magazine.

❖ While our P.T.A. committees are attempting to clear out and clean up the undesirable reading matter offered so blatantly, we must also do our best to help parents understand their children. For it is our hope that every home will be able to create an environment in which children and youth may grow in strength to face and combat whatever undesirable influences are forced upon them.

❖ Finally, individual parents must dedicate themselves to setting examples that their children will find worthy and appealing. We have abundant proof from psychological research that young people tend to accept the patterns set by parents.

❖ If we resolve to do these things, all leading to the eventual elimination of the pornography threat, we shall be honoring our Founders in ways appropriate to our time. Unwanted as is the problem for our consideration, may our power and our dedication hasten the day when we shall no longer have need to discuss it.

Sincerely yours,

Koula C. Parker

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

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PHILADELPHIA WELCOMES YOU

To the National Congress Convention, May 22-25

PREVIOUS ISSUES of the *Bulletin* have brought you pictures and information on the interesting city where your national convention will be held. And now, while you're still setting up your plans to attend, perhaps you'd like to know something, too, about your "home-away-from-home" during the convention. Below are the hotels that will be serving you in the host city, Philadelphia, and some pertinent facts about their location.



Bellevue Stratford



Sylvania



Benjamin Franklin

► Any one of these hotels is within easy walking distance of the American Academy of Music, where the convention's general sessions will be held. The Bellevue Stratford, the convention headquarters, is a block away; the Sylvania and John Bartram hotels, a half block; the Benjamin Franklin, eight blocks.



John Bartram

Attention

Convention Delegates

● Reservation blanks for Philadelphia hotel rooms have been prepared for your particular convenience. Write to your state office for the copy that's waiting there for you.

One and Indivisible...



THE P.T.A.

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

IN THIS ANNIVERSARY MONTH of the founding of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers you and many other P.T.A. members may have paused to ask a timely question: Why has the parent-teacher movement grown so fast? And why do millions of P.T.A. members still honor the objectives set down when the Founders first sounded the call for action in 1897?

The answer to that question is one we may well ponder, this month and every month, for in it lies the secret of the position of trust and honor the P.T.A. now holds in the eyes of Americans everywhere.

For All Children

TWO THOUSAND men and women went to Washington, D. C., from communities across the nation in response to that historic call sixty-three years ago. They could not know how their endeavor was to spread and grow through the years. But one thing they were sure of: A movement to improve the welfare of children must be for the welfare of *all* children.

These parents realized they would need guidance, help, and united strength, so they set up an organization that they called the National Congress of Mothers—a name changed in 1925 to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Back in their home states, the pioneers started a ball rolling that gathered momentum from day to day as teachers, fathers, mothers, and other citizens joined in. Soon it became clear that the best way to build National Congress ranks and strengthen its services was through close ties in neighborhood units. In this manner was born the P.T.A.—your National Congress in your own community.

A Nation-wide Partnership

NOW THERE ARE 45,500 P.T.A.'s and 52 state congresses, with nearly 12,000,000 memberships. But, whether 2,000 or 12,000,000, the fundamental purpose of P.T.A. membership remains the same. And so does a member's relationship to his national organization.

Your membership card proclaims your partnership not only in your local association but in the National Congress and one of its state branches as well.

Through this all-inclusive membership you and other P.T.A. workers have been able to unite your efforts, time, devotion, and resources. As a result, you have a record of accomplishment that single associations working alone could not hope to achieve. Here are some of the ways in which you have scored:

Awakening public awareness of the needs of children.

Promoting programs of parent and family life education.

Gaining public acceptance of the idea that parents and teachers must work together for the benefit of the child.

Helping to obtain more schools and better schools.

Winning recognition of the need for kindergartens in public schools and for specially trained teachers.

Pioneering and maintaining hot lunch programs for schools.

Participating in every White House Conference on Children and Youth since the conferences began in 1930 and playing a leading part in follow-up work.

Helping to secure legislation "for the care and protection of children and youth."

In fact there is no end to National Congress activity in behalf of children and youth. Just look at some of your national accomplishments during the past year alone: combating the distribution of harmful pornographic materials through the U.S. mails; setting up pilot projects to implement the new program of continuous health supervision; co-operating with the American Social Health Association (formerly American Social Hygiene Association) in a pilot project to encourage and strengthen family life education in the schools; pioneering, through your official magazine, the *National Parent-Teacher*, in providing a family guide for better television viewing. Big projects, yes, but not too big when your organization has millions of members and its influence is nation-wide.

Steering Straight Ahead

P.T.A. MEMBERS know how important it is to keep the parent-teacher program moving steadily forward toward their Objects even though local unit membership and leadership may change from year to year. So, at your national and state conventions, you have prescribed and adopted bylaws, practices, plans, and programs that enable the national organization and its state branches to hold on a steady course. Your P.T.A. adapts these blueprints to local needs, always knowing it can rely on its state congress and the National Congress for informed guidance and needed services. With their help you work out programs of action suited to your own school, community, and membership. Thus your capacity to deal with the needs and problems of all children has grown ever stronger and more far-reaching.

The Interest-bearing Nickel

THE BIGGEST VALUE in the world today is the return on the five cents you pay as the national portion of your P.T.A. membership dues. Some concrete examples? Take the conference on juvenile protection in December 1957 that brought important information and counsel to fifty state congress chairmen and, through them, to all local Congress units. For this conference the National Congress assembled some of the nation's top authorities in juvenile protection—specialists from such agencies as the U.S. Children's Bureau, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Child Welfare League of America. A lone P.T.A. could not possibly handle the arrangements for such a program, much less finance it. But when your P.T.A.'s "national nickels" are added to those of millions of other Congress units, all P.T.A.'s can proudly share in many such significant projects as this.

Another big return on a lot of small investments is the new P.T.A. headquarters in Chicago—center of the parent-teacher effort and symbol of the ever-growing importance of the parent-

(Continued on page 4.)

One and Indivisible

teacher organization. There it stands—an impressive evidence of how you have compounded a multitude of modest contributions into a striking collective achievement.

And there are many other such achievements. Those P.T.A. nickels, plus half the contributions you and other members make on Founders Day, accumulate to provide the priceless things that maintain the parent-teacher movement as a respected force working creatively for the good of all children:

- **Cooperative ties with other national organizations, professional associations, government agencies, colleges and universities.** Through these relationships much helpful and authoritative information comes to parent-teacher workers; the parent-teacher idea and Action Program are publicized and interpreted to members of other organizations; interests and efforts are shared, often leading to surveys, studies, and pilot projects that guide National Congress members to yet other far-reaching achievements. An example is the recent successful field testing of the Salk vaccine for polio, in which the P.T.A. played the strategic role.

- **Extension services, provided by experienced national representatives and members of the National Congress field staff.** National representatives are members of the National Board of Managers (national officers, presidents of state congresses, and chairmen of national committees). At state conventions and other meetings Board members strengthen the close relationships between the national administration and the membership as they interpret special phases of parent-teacher work. More and more often, too, as P.T.A. membership grows and the number of local units increases, these officers are invited to bring information and inspiration to parent-teacher leaders and prospective leaders.

National field service is another vital part of the parent-teacher extension program. Field staff members help to extend the organization and its influence and to maintain unity in all the divisions of the work. They are especially important just now in strengthening high school service and in training parent-teacher leaders. When a state congress requests it, national field staff members participate with state congress leaders in state-planned conferences. They also help state congresses conduct leadership institutes and workshops, and they assist with conferences and courses for prospective teachers at teacher training institutions.

- **Channels of communication.** Through national channels P.T.A.'s get expert help for their programs and activities. You know how important it is to have continuing, well-planned publicity for achieving P.T.A. goals and programs. The National Congress assures this publicity for P.T.A.'s by supplying photographs and news stories to a network of newspapers, radio and television stations, wire services, and other agencies. It also sends releases to state bulletin editors and publicity chairmen, who relay them to district, council, and local publicity chairmen to use in preparing state and local releases. At every step it backs up the state congress and local units as they interpret the parent-teacher program to the public. This support helps build the warm understanding and receptive attitude that are so necessary for effective P.T.A. work.

Nor is it only news releases that go out from national chairmen to state chairmen and through them (in letters, packets, state bulletins) to local chairmen. Messages and materials of all kinds keep P.T.A.'s abreast of new developments in child welfare and education and of new techniques in parent-teacher work.

One of the most effective ways in which your national organization keeps communication lines wide open is through the Congress publications program. The national organization from its very beginning has assumed this responsibility because, for one thing, publishing is an expensive, technical operation. Then, too, the Congress, by reason of its "core position," has been able to garner the wisdom and understanding from the "best practices" in parent-teacher work. To convey this knowledge to all P.T.A. members, the National Congress prepares and prints many useful publications and distributes them to members free or at cost. (See

pages 5 and 6.) You have used many of these publications—you know how valuable they are in helping parents and teachers work efficiently either in groups or as individuals.

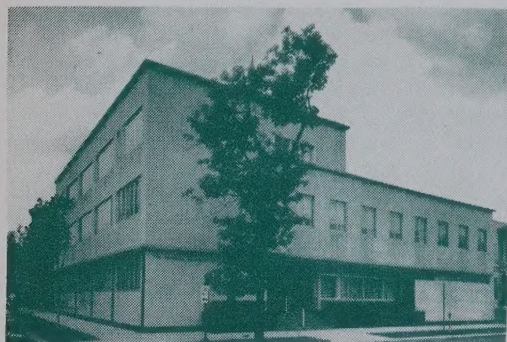
Ever since 1906 P.T.A. members have been able to rely on the *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* for sound, authoritative, and interesting information keyed to their special concerns. To find encouragement and assistance as you work to extend the program of parent and family life education, you have only to turn to the famous triple series of articles on preschool children, school-age children, and adolescents. Whether you are a parent or a teacher you will find in these series and the accompanying study guides the core content you want for your study of children's needs.

The *National Congress Bulletin* is sent without charge to each local Congress unit, addressed to its president. Other members can subscribe for a nominal fee and thus obtain the *Bulletin's* news of the parent-teacher organization as well as the messages it carries from the national president.

Each of the booklets published by the National Congress is helpful for some specific purpose. A new one that has become indispensable to many P.T.A.'s is *Looking In on Your School: Questions To Guide P.T.A. Fact Finders*. Probably you have been using this if your P.T.A. is working with school administrators to extend and improve educational opportunities in your community. Other needs are met, for example, by *What P.T.A. Members Should Know About Juvenile Delinquency*; *Parent-Teacher Manual*; *Councils of Parent-Teacher Associations*; *Raising and Using P.T.A. Funds*; *Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness*. These and all the other booklets contain the down-to-earth information and guidance that parent-teacher workers need.

All-inclusive Caring

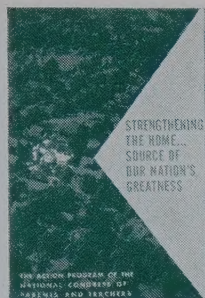
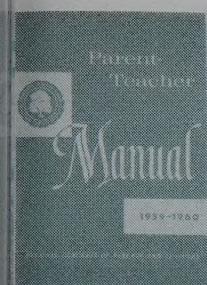
THIS, in brief, is the story of how your organization reinforces its strength and extends its resources. The story gives a deeper meaning to your all-inclusive membership. For that membership means that you, the owner of a P.T.A. membership card, are investing your personal concern for children in the largest voluntary partnership in the world—a partnership in concern for the child. Your dividend is intelligent action for all children everywhere.



● The P.T.A. building—center and symbol.

CONGRESS PUBLICATIONS

Supplied Free to P.T.A.'s



ARE you making use of the publications the National Congress provides for your association? Do you know that the annual *free distribution* of millions of copies of parent-teacher publications is one of the major services rendered by the Congress to its 45,500 P.T.A.'s? There is no topic of parent-teacher interest that is not included in one or another of the many books, pamphlets, periodicals, and leaflets supplied annually.

Here, for example, is the list of materials provided free since April 15, 1959:

Title	Quantity
Action Program, <i>Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness</i>	52,953
<i>All in a Child's Lifetime</i>	271,854
<i>Bylaws, National</i>	4,976
<i>Convention Digest, 1959</i>	6,440
<i>Councils of Parent-Teacher Associations</i>	7,567
<i>Founders Day 1960 (Bulletin reprint)</i>	67,705
<i>Guiding Children as They Grow</i>	1,560
<i>Happy Journey</i>	1,300
<i>How the Legislation Program Is Authorized</i>	67,705
<i>It's High Time</i>	1,300
<i>Junior Hi-Ways</i>	10,400
<i>The Last Word—The First Choice</i>	67,705
<i>Legislation Program (Bulletin reprint)</i>	67,705
<i>Legislation Recommendations (Bulletin reprint)</i>	67,705
<i>Local Unit Remittance Form</i>	27,192
<i>Local Unit Report Blank</i>	59,040
<i>Looking In on Your School</i>	5,200
Membership Promotion Leaflets	
<i>Don't Be a Dropout Parent</i>	90,618
<i>For Men Only</i>	135,927
<i>Why Our P.T.A. Is a Unit of the National Congress</i>	135,927
<i>You Are Needed in Our P.T.A.</i>	135,927
<i>You Belong in Our P.T.A.</i>	135,927
Spanish translation of <i>You Belong in Our P.T.A.</i>	4,046
Membership Cards (first printing)	15,547,814
(second printing)	582,200
(third printing)	92,500
Membership Information for Local Presidents and Local Membership Chairmen (Bulletin reprint)	1,040
Moral and Spiritual Education	1,300
National Congress of Parents and Teachers: <i>The P.T.A. in the Local Community</i>	22,666
<i>New Hope for Audiences</i>	780
<i>Organizing a P.T.A.</i>	3,405
<i>Parent-Teacher Manual</i>	128,226

Title	Quantity
<i>Parent-Teacher Manual</i> , reprints of Section I	
Budget and Finance	49,846
Bylaws, National	49,846
Duties of Officers	95,157
Hospitality	49,846
Installation Ceremony	49,846
Planning the Program	49,846
Policies and Guiding Principles	49,846

<i>Parent-Teacher Manual</i> , reprints of Section II	
Each of the following in quantities of	45,309
Audio-Visual Services	
Character and Spiritual Education	
Citizenship	
Congress Publications	
Cooperation with Colleges	
Exceptional Child	
Health	
High School Service	
International Relations	
Juvenile Protection	
Legislation	
Membership	
Mental Health	
National Parent-Teacher Magazine	
Parent and Family Life Education	
Preschool Service	
Program and Founders Day	
Publicity	
Reading and Library Service	
Recreation	
Rural Service	
Safety	
School Education	

<i>P.T.A. Public Relations:</i>	
<i>A Publicity Handbook</i>	1,300
<i>P.T.A. Room Representatives</i>	22,666
<i>Parents and Teachers as Partners</i>	1,300
<i>Plans of Work (of national chairmen, 1959-62)</i>	7,800
<i>Policies and Practices</i>	7,975
<i>Proceedings, 1958-59</i>	3,380
<i>Publications of Special Interest to P.T.A. Leaders and Members (publications order blank)</i>	67,705
<i>Raising and Using P.T.A. Funds</i>	67,705
<i>A Reading Guide for Parents</i>	2,600
<i>Schools of Instruction</i>	2,550
<i>Signals for Safety with Safety Study Guide</i>	5,200
<i>Statement of Principles</i>	67,705
Student packet	52
<i>Study-Discussion Group Techniques for Parent Education Leaders</i>	1,300
<i>Such Is the P.T.A. Story (reprint of president's message in April 1959 issue of the National Parent-Teacher)</i>	67,705
<i>A Teacher's Guide to the P.T.A.</i>	1,560
<i>What P.T.A. Members Should Know About Juvenile Delinquency</i>	1,560
<i>Where Children Come First</i>	520
<i>Working with Youth Through the High School P.T.A.</i>	10,400

The following materials were sent free to each state congress for use at its convention:

- 1 set of all pay publications
- 5 sets of all free publications

- 100 sample copies of the *National Parent-Teacher*
- 100 sample copies of the *National Congress Bulletin*
- 500 copies each of all promotional leaflets, such as *You Are Needed in Our P.T.A.*, *Don't Be a Dropout Parent*, and *You Belong in Our P.T.A.*
- 100 publications order blanks
- 2 Objects charts (plain and illustrated)
- 1 set of all paper posters in stock

Publications distributed in quantities of 67,705 or more provide one copy for each P.T.A.; 300 copies for state board members and leaders at district and council levels; and a quantity equal to 15 per cent of the total number of associations for state extension use. Those distributed in quantities of approximately 45,000 provide at least one copy for each P.T.A. Extra copies of each publication are available to state congresses at cost, in case they wish to give the publication wider distribution. Local associations may also purchase extra copies of most of these publications as well as others that are supplied on a pay basis only. They are listed in *Publications of Special Interest to P.T.A. Leaders and Members*, which is available free from the state congress.

In some cases enough copies are supplied to provide more than one copy per association, but the distribution in such instances is left to the judgment of the state leaders.

There are also publications that cover subjects of interest to special groups or to leaders working in certain parent-teacher areas. These are provided in smaller quantities—for example, *Schools of Instruction*, *Convention Digest*, *Junior Hi-Ways*, *Working with Youth Through the High School P.T.A.*, *Signals for Safety*. Sometimes publications are reprinted after the initial large distribution. These reprinted editions are usually supplied to state congresses in smaller quantities to provide for replacements, copies for new leaders, and the like.

We suggest that you check your supplies to make sure you have received the full allotment of parent-teacher publications that your national organization provides free for you. If you are minus any of those to which you are entitled, please get in touch with your state president or state office—your state congress

(Continued on next page.)

CONGRESS PUBLICATIONS

will be glad to see that you have copies of all such publications. Sometimes mailed copies go astray, and the only way for your state leaders to know that you did not get all your materials is for you to tell them.

Sometimes when we think of membership in the P.T.A. we are likely to overlook the great benefits that accrue to us because our local belongs to the state branch and the National Congress. Indeed, we frequently get so used to a certain type of service that we take it more or less for granted. Yet parent-teacher work would soon lose its vigor, appeal, and effectiveness if the unifying strength of its state and national services were curtailed. *Therefore do make complete use of your national and state publications services.* See that every piece of literature to which your association is entitled reaches the officer or chairman for whom it is intended. And if you need any more information about any of these publications, get in touch at once with your state office. You will find the address on your membership card.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CONGRESS PUBLICATIONS

Mrs. A. L. Hendrick, chairman; Mrs. R. J. Arnold; Mrs. Joel L. Burkitt; O. A. DeLong; Mrs. L. M. Graves; Mrs. Aaron E. Margulis; Mrs. Glenn K. Rogers; James M. Rosbrow; Mrs. J. Zebulon Watkins.



© St. Petersburg Times

• Mrs. P. R. Zipperlin, left, and Mrs. W. L. Pilsbury, Jr., both of St. Petersburg, Florida, hold the "picket line" on the grounds of the St. Petersburg Junior College, scene of a district conference. Their signs and sandwich boards protest that "P.T.A. Members Are Unfair to Congress Publications." The reason: Because Congress publications "are not used enough."

OFFICERS
OF
STATE
PRESIDENTS'
AND
NATIONAL
CHAIRMEN'S
CONFERENCES

• Officers of the State Presidents' Conference (from left): Mrs. Horace H. Johnson (Pennsylvania), vice-chairman; E. D. Trice (Arkansas), chairman; and Mrs. Herbert Price (New Mexico), secretary-treasurer.



• Officers of the 1959-60 National Chairmen's Conference are (from left): Mrs. P. D. Bevil (Safety), vice-chairman; Mrs. Durand Taylor (International Relations), secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Joel L. Burkitt (National Parent-Teacher Magazine), chairman.

World Refugee Year

• July 1, 1959, to June 30, 1960, has been designated as World Refugee Year by the United Nations to focus attention on refugee problems and to give governments and people all over the world a chance to help refugees.

To help solve pressing refugee problems, all American citizens are invited to cooperate with the United States Committee for Refugees, the agency that has assumed major responsibility for organizing and assisting in plans for American citizens' participation in World Refugee Year. Teaching kits and information on how you can help in this humanitarian program are available from the Committee at 11 West Forty-second Street, New York 36, New York.

✓ CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

Founders Day, February 17

Girl Scout Week, March 6-12

Deadline for count of National Parent-Teacher Magazine subscriptions that can be reported at the national convention, March 31

1960 National Congress Convention, May 22-25, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Our Membership Goal: More than 12,000,000 Memberships by April 15, 1960

CORRECTION, please: The number of local Congress units given on page 1 of the January issue of the *Bulletin* should have been 45,500.

COUNCILS IN ACTION...

P.T.A. SERVICES ARE UNITED THROUGH
COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND COOPERATION

Quincy Council • Illinois • The three-year parent education program carried on by the council enlisted community-wide cooperation—cooperation from parents, educators, the Quincy *Herald-Whig*, station KHQA-TV, and parent education chairmen of fourteen P.T.A.'s. A series of television broadcasts featured mothers, fathers, students, professional consultants, and Paul Bowman of the Quincy Youth Development Commission as moderator.

Questions related to the television topic of the week were published as a "Score Sheet for Parents" in the local newspaper, and parent education chairmen, acting as inquiring reporters, gathered parents' comments for the paper's regular "Soap Box Column." "These programs stimulated interest that spilled over into conversation at parents' social gatherings and also furnished material for P.T.A. programs," reports Mrs. Lawrence Meyer, a former council parent education chairman. "A fine example of cooperation and coordination" is the thumbnail description given the program by Mrs. George B. Carty, former parent and family life education chairman of the Illinois Congress.

Spanish Fork Council • Utah • The council's executive committee voted to send a subscription to *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* to each council officer and chairman. Thus it is hoped that more P.T.A. leaders and members will become acquainted with the magazine that provides the information and inspiration they need as parent-teacher leaders.

New Kensington City Council • Pennsylvania • With the cooperation of the city chamber of commerce, the council succeeded in bringing a junior college to New Kensington. One member of the board of trustees of the new college, upon recommendation of Pennsylvania State University, is from the council. The college has also asked the council to cooperate in promoting evening classes and discussion groups for adults.

Dade County Council • Florida • To help parents with problems they faced in sending their children off to school for the first time, the council sponsored a workshop in April for health and preschool chairmen of the county's 129 units. These chairmen then relayed their funds of information to mothers in their communities. Special topics dealt with at the workshop included "School Health Service Procedure," by the assistant director of the county health department; "Preschool Readiness," by the assistant director of elementary education; and the answering of questions on health and safety, by the health and safety supervisor of the county board of public instruction.

Bellingham Council • Washington • The council, in cooperation with the schools and the county health department, organized a dental health council whose objective was to set up a dental health program. A dental hygienist, hired for topical application of fluorides to children's teeth, is paid from funds

collected for the fluoride treatments, which are given at low cost. The Bellingham and Whatcom County Health Center, established in space donated by the Whatcom County health department, provides free dental care for children whose parents do not have sufficient funds. Open one day a week, the center is manned on a rotation basis by dentists who give their time and skill without charge. To educate adults on how dental decay can be prevented, the dental health council sponsored a workshop for parents and teachers and arranged for the state dental chief to speak to P.T.A. and other groups.

Keokuk Council • Iowa • At its first meeting of the year council chairmen conducted round-table discussions for members of corresponding committees in local units. The purpose of the discussions was to familiarize workers with the goals of the state congress and the National Congress, to stimulate ideas for improving committee functions, and to coordinate unit activities.



• Members of the national council advisory service committee met at the National Headquarters last summer to study proposed revisions of "Councils," the National Congress handbook. Here Mrs. Parker (standing), National Congress president, looks in on the group. From left are Mrs. Eva H. Grant, editor-in-chief of Congress publications; Mrs. Vera Diekhoff, senior editor; and National Board members who were then serving on the council advisory service committee: Mrs. C. Meredith Springer, then president, New York Congress; Mrs. A. L. Hendrick, national vice-president from Region VI and chairman of the committee; Mrs. Joel L. Burkitt, national chairman of the National Parent-Teacher Magazine Committee; Mrs. A. Kenneth Spencer, National Congress secretary; and Mrs. Harold A. Belcher, national vice-president from Region V.

MEMO TO: P.T.A. Presidents P.T.A. Magazine and Study Group Chairmen

● Why not start soon, now, to get the 1960-61 study-discussion groups off to a good start? One way to make sure of having the necessary source material on hand is to include the cost of an association subscription to the *National Parent-Teacher* in next year's P.T.A. budget. Through this arrangement, two, three, four, or more issues of the magazine will be sent to the same address. Later on, when more members are equipped with their own subscriptions, your extra magazine copies can be made available through the popular "newsstand-style" purchase plan.

● Promptness in forwarding *National Parent-Teacher* subscriptions to the national magazine office pays big dividends: (1) The subscriber is happy to get his first issue of the magazine when he needs and expects it. (2) A satisfied subscriber is likely to be receptive to the idea of renewing his subscription. (3) Excellence of P.T.A. service (any kind) adds up to good public relations for the P.T.A. in particular and the parent-teacher organization as a whole.

Bushels of Letters Needed

► The second session of the Eighty-sixth Congress promises to be a short one. There is terminal legislation that requires action. "Big money" bills such as the Murray-Metcalf Bill being considered at this session have little chance of passing. However, it is understood that Senate Bill 8 will be brought to the floor early.

Mrs. Fred L. Bull, national chairman of the Committee on Legislation, is urging all-out support for this bill because it meets the provisions written into the policies of the National Congress. It is the one bill that seems to have the best chance of enactment. An amendment to it may be offered to include teachers' salaries and allow the states to decide the proportions for each—that is, for school construction and for salaries.

Every state congress is being asked to write or wire its two senators to make its wishes known.

Safety Notes

● A nation-wide automotive care and safety program has been launched by the 4-H Clubs of America. The program, designed to help combat the high accident rate among teen-age drivers, provides instruction in automobile safety and maintenance of vehicles in safe operating condition. It is planned to supplement rather than to duplicate high school driver education, giving facts and training in auto care, safety, and mechanical know-how.

The program has the support of the National Safety Council, the National Commission on Safety Education of the National Education Association, and the Automotive Safety Foundation. With the cooperation of the Foundation, pilot projects were carried on for two years in 250 counties of 39 states, and, on the basis of these highly successful trials, the work is now being extended to all states, counties, and some major cities.

● A new traffic safety film, *Signs Take a Holiday*, with a companion leaflet *Signs You Must Know*, has been produced by the National Safety Council to stress the importance of voluntary obedience to all traffic signs, signals, and pavement markings. The 16mm, black-and-white film, done in animation, runs twelve minutes and is suitable for both school children and adults.

The film (with 500 leaflets) may be ordered from the National Safety Council, 425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois, for \$60. The leaflet by itself is sold in packages of 100; orders of 1 to 9 packages are \$2.00 a package.

Polio Clinics

● Perhaps now, with the *New March of Dimes* in progress, is an especially good time to emphasize again the need for widespread immunization against polio. Polio crippled thousands and cost millions of March-of-Dimes dollars in 1959. Despite the availability of the Salk vaccine, more than a hundred million Americans have not had the full series of immunizing shots.

In a letter to state health chairmen, Helen M. Wallace, M.D., national chairman of Health, points out that "community clinics are the most effective way to reach those who are uninformed, apathetic, or unable to pay for protection." She urges P.T.A.'s to "initiate and sponsor community polio vaccination clinics in early spring."

NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL OFFICES



Martin Essex



Mrs. Delmas Miller



Mrs. Russell S. Moore



Mrs. Leon S. Price

● At our national convention in Philadelphia next May five national officers will be elected. The following list of nominees has been presented by the nominating committee of the National Congress:



Mrs. C. Meredith Springer

Second Vice-president, Martin Essex, Ohio

Vice-president, Region I, Mrs. C. Meredith Springer, New York

Vice-president, Region II, Mrs. Delmas Miller, West Virginia

Vice-president, Region IV, Mrs. Russell S. Moore, Ohio

Vice-president, Region VI, Mrs. Leon S. Price, Texas

Each of these persons has accepted the nomination, and each is well qualified to serve the Congress in a post of great responsibility.

Members of the nominating committee are Mrs. Clifford N. Jenkins, New York, chairman; Mrs. Fred L. Keeler, Michigan; Galen Saylor, Nebraska; E. D. Trice, Arkansas; and Mrs. J. Zebulon Watkins, North Carolina.